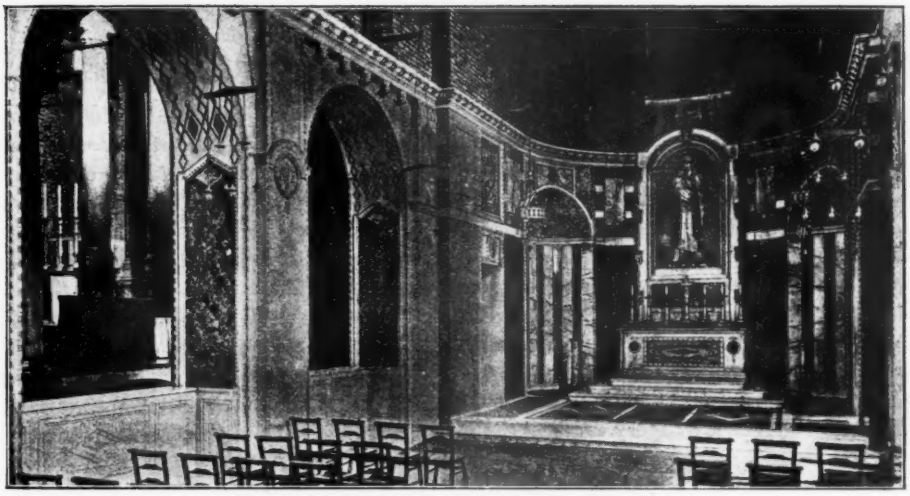


WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: THE ALTAR, LADY CHAPEL.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL.

By H. HEATHCOTE STATHAM [*F.*].

THE announcement of the publication of an important book on Westminster Cathedral and its architect, by an author with a French name, led a good many people, as well as the present writer, to suppose that this was a work on the Cathedral by a French architect; which would no doubt have been an event of great interest to English architects and architectural critics. In fact, as it turned out, "Winifride de l'Hôpital," whose name as author appears thus on the title-page, is the late Mr. Bentley's married daughter; so that instead of embodying the analysis and criticism of a foreign architect, the book* is an amateur treatise by a lady who has the twofold interest in her subject, arising from consanguinity with the late gifted architect of the Cathedral, and from the feelings of (obviously) a devout and devoted Catholic. To say this is not to imply any lessening of one's interest in the book on that account. In some senses the effect is, perhaps, the opposite; only it must be regarded from a different point of view from that of a purely architectural treatise, and allowance must be made for some natural and more than pardonable excess of enthusiasm here and there. But in the main, the book is admirably done; the authoress is in a position to give us intimate and reliable information as to facts, and its publication forms an opportunity for a renewed consideration of this remarkable example of modern architecture. It may be as well to say at once, however, that the present writer's interest in the building is purely architectural, and is in no way concerned with the idea of its forming a centre and an engine for what is called (with unconscious irony) "the conversion of England."

The present site of the Cathedral was not the first one contemplated; there appear to have been, as far as we can follow out the history, the narration of which is rather complicated, two sites successively proposed, one of which was actually purchased, and subsequently re-sold. For what may be called the penultimate site, Mr. Clutton, who had, in the earlier stages of the undertaking, been the architect consulted, prepared a design (his fourth effort) for a large cathedral in Early Pointed style, 412 ft. in length and 140 ft. across the nave and four aisles; a scheme the extent and cost of which seems at the time to have frightened subscribers. A promise from a generous donor, on condition that his name should never be made public, seemed to raise better hopes, and decided Cardinal Manning to

* *Westminster Cathedral and its Architect.* By Winifride de l'Hôpital. With an Introduction by Professor W. R. Lethaby, F.R.I.B.A. With 160 illustrations. London: Hutchinson & Co.

exchange the previously proposed site for one " in a more open and splendid position." This was the site on which stood the County Prison of Tothill Fields ; and the Cardinal sent for his solicitor, Mr. Blount, and, taking him to a window from which the prison site could be seen, said briefly " That land is for sale, I wish you to buy it for me," the *modus operandi* being left to the solicitor's judgment and resource. The site has a long and curious history. It was originally, like the site of Westminster Abbey, marsh land, a great part of it being at times actually under water. It is related that in the reign of Henry III. the site was dry land, and the then abbot of Westminster obtained the Royal sanction to keep a fair every year on the land for three days, and this fair was held on the actual site of the present cathedral. There must have been a great deal of building carried on around the site since the date of the Cardinal's purchase, or it is impossible to understand how it could be regarded as " in an open and splendid position," since the cathedral is so shut in by blocks of street houses that from the great public thoroughfare of Victoria Street there is not a hint of its existence, except for the top of the tower peering above the houses. It would be a splendid site, no doubt, if opened out to Victoria Street, but as it is, it is a very confined site for a great church, and no really comprehensive view of it can be obtained.

Matters having got this far, and a site finally decided on and secured, in 1882 came the question of the choice of an architect, about which there seems to have been a good deal of heart-burning, various architects of the Catholic Communion (for it may be assumed that none outside that communion could well be employed) being desirous that there should be an architectural competition for the erection of the best design. Bentley's action prevented this very doubtful course. His name and work were already very favourably known to the ecclesiastical authorities connected with the scheme, and when asked if he would compete he gave a decisive " No " ; he did not approve of competitions nor of seeking work in any way, the work was to seek him. His decisive attitude had the double advantage of raising still higher the standard of personal respect for him, and of securing for the work undoubtedly the man best fitted to carry it out. It was felt that no competition could have any result which would compensate for the loss of Bentley, and he was appointed without competition. It is not to be supposed for a moment that his refusal to compete was a matter of policy ; Bentley, from everything one can learn about him, was obviously one of the most highminded and unselfish of men.

The choice of the architect being thus fortunately settled, the next question was, we will not say what style should be adopted for the building (a crude way of putting it which we are now happily emerging from), but what should the architect aim at in the character and effect of the new cathedral. Now Bentley's reputation as a church architect had been hitherto based on churches in the accepted modern Gothic style, and the ecclesiastical authorities in the matter were (very wisely) unwilling to risk comparisons between a modern Gothic cathedral and the mediæval Gothic of the neighbouring Westminster Abbey. Bentley, who would himself have preferred a Gothic cathedral, seems to have admitted the force of this reasoning, but he was strongly opposed to the Cardinal's desire for a Basilica church of the Italian type, and eventually this desire was abandoned, and the choice of both the ecclesiastics and their architect coalesced in favour of " the Christian Byzantine style." There may be something to be said for either alternative. A Basilica church on the largest scale would have been a grand thing in itself, and would have had interesting associations with the character of the early churches of Rome. But this association might have been felt to be too local ; the Byzantine influence, which for several centuries made itself felt in outlying parts of Italy and France, as well as in what may be called its original home in Constantinople, was more cosmopolitan than the Italian Basilica style. And the latter, though eminently dignified in an architectural sense, lacks the elements of mystery and of aspiration which belong to the Byzantine type of architecture ; it is comparatively cold in effect and does not admit of the same richness of decorative treatment. In a practical sense, as regards suitability for congregational worship, there is indeed little to choose between the Basilica type of plan and the one actually adopted at Westminster ; and the argument used, that " the exceptionally wide nave,

unimpeded by columns or screen, was without question the best suited to the congregational needs of a metropolitan cathedral," is one which would equally have applied to a Basilica plan, since the columns in the latter do not interfere with the wide central space. Another very far-seeing reason given for the adoption of the Byzantine type of church, which probably many people do not suspect, is that as the Byzantine type of architecture is essentially an architecture of massive walls forming the backing to an applied marble decoration, it would be possible thus to build the walls and roof *en masse* at once, and cover in the building, leaving their decorative finish for a future date, and a future expenditure. For all these reasons the Byzantine type of architecture was decided on, with the fortunate result, in an architectural sense, that we have in London an immense building illustrating a type of architecture of which there is no example on the same scale in England ; to the interest of artists and the bewilderment of the average English public. For to the average Englishman anything in architecture which is different from what he is accustomed to see is at once labelled as " ugly " ; when the cathedral was half-finished a violent letter from an inhabitant of one of the houses in the vicinity was published in an evening paper, protesting against " the monstrosity which is being erected in our midst," or words to that effect ; and the average English newspaper faithfully reflects the stupidity, in such matters, of the average Englishman. If you see in an English daily paper a description of some new building as being a disgrace to the neighbourhood on account of its ugliness, you may be pretty sure to find that it is a building of some architectural interest and originality.

Having decided on the prevailing style or character for the new Cathedral, Bentley set out, as soon as he could conveniently arrange for a lengthened absence, on a tour of inspection of ancient churches, mainly in Italy. It was the best and most sensible preparation an architect could possibly have made for the carrying out of a great church at home ; a mission calculated to inspire the imagination, to fill the mind with new ideas, and to afford, moreover, the opportunity of studying the actual results, in existing buildings, of various principles of treatment on a large scale. The few records given in the book of his opinions on various buildings are of interest. Milan Cathedral, over which he was conducted by an enthusiastic local *cicerone*, caused him (as may be supposed) a difficulty in polite reticence. St. Ambrogio was much more sympathetic to his soul ; and from Pisa it is concluded, with probability, that he adopted the system of continuing the arcade of the gallery in an unbroken line across the transept opening. He never liked, we are told, " the break in the continuity of line caused by open transepts." But that surely depends on the nature of the plan adopted. In a plan with a large central dome the open arches of the transepts are almost a necessity of the effect. The importance of continuity of line belongs to a different order of plan. Florence Cathedral he drastically notices as " architecturally the worst large building I have ever seen," though he seems to have excepted the Campanile from this perhaps not too harsh judgment. St. Peter's is also " the worst large building, excepting, perhaps, the Duomo at Florence." He adds, " of course, the effect is fine, very fine, but produced at the sacrifice of scale." Exactly ; that is just what the ordinary visitor never realises ; the scale of the details is all wrong. But surely Bentley might have found a word of praise for that glorious dome—glorious in its exterior lines at all events. The visit to Ravenna furnishes an interesting anecdote :—

> The atmosphere of the long-past ages of the great period of Ravenna's constructive activity into which he seemed to be transported was expressed by the man who drove him out to St. Apollinare in Classe—supremely reverent for the churches and tombs of those far-away centuries, his scorn for the later productions was withering. The architect, as they drove along, was carrying on a conversation as well as his rather halting Italian would permit, and, pointing out a church near the road, inquired its name. " Ah ! Signor," came the reply, " *that* would not interest you ; it is not worth your while—it is quite modern." A further question elicited that it dated from the eleventh century !

The three plans kindly lent to us by the publisher are of interest as showing the gradual development of the plan to its present form. In Fig. 1 the third dome from the entrance end is emphasised by the contiguity of the large open transepts with aspidal terminations, which would have had a fine effect, in spite of the architect's dislike to the interruption of the vista by these wide open spaces.

But as this is not a plan with one main central cupola, but a long plan roofed by a succession of four cupolas of equal size, there seemed no sufficient reason for thus emphasising the third cupola, where the main scheme of the ground plan does not suggest any special treatment at this point ; accordingly, in the plan, Fig. 2, the wide open transepts are abandoned and the gallery design carried through, as in the final plan, Fig. 3. The principal difference between this and No. 2 consists in the treatment of the entrance front, from which the tower is pushed back, and the front treated symmetrically, with the two octagonal stair turrets flanking the central portion. Bentley had proposed to build two towers, but Cardinal Vaughan said " one is enough for me " ; and he was right. Probably if Bentley's two towers had been built they would have been different in design from, and not so lofty as, the present single one, and they would have formed a symmetrical portion of the entrance front design ; but it may be doubted if they would have had as fine and striking an effect as the present lofty and very beautiful tower. A single tower being determined on, it was a wise judgment to remove it from the west front,* with the symmetry of which it would have interfered, and build it in an angle position a little further back.

For the practical details as to the construction of the cathedral the reader must be referred to the

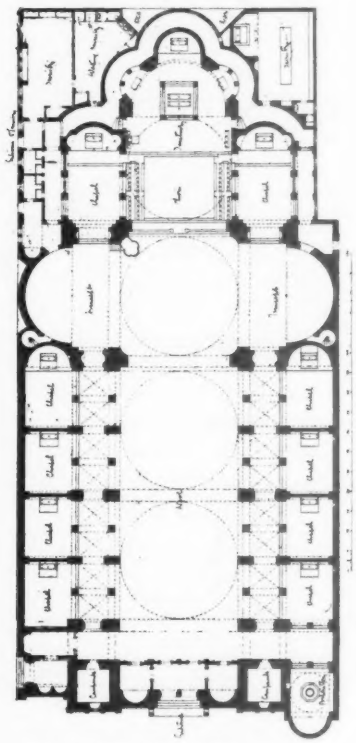


FIG. 1. FIRST SCHEME FOR THE PLAN.

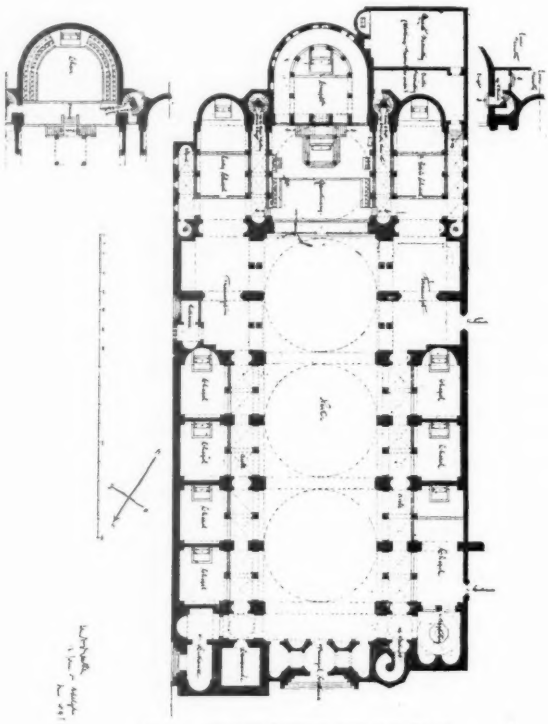


FIG. 2. SECOND SCHEME FOR THE PLAN.

book, as they are far too numerous and elaborate to be quoted to any purpose here, and are in fact chiefly supplied in the book by quotations from Mr. J. A. Marshall's Paper read before the Architectural Association on April 12th, 1907, so that to produce them here, to any useful extent, would merely be

* The words " west end " and " east end," etc., are used for the sake of clearness in their usual ritual sense, though the church is not really orientated east and west.

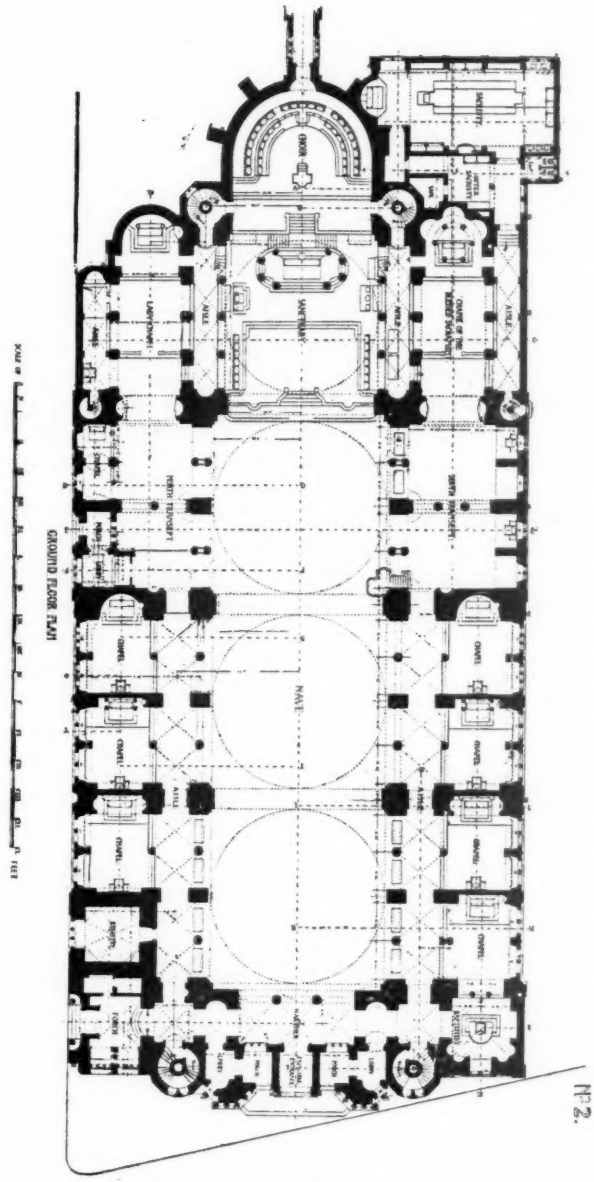


FIG. 3. PLAN AS FINALLY ADOPTED.
(Larger Scale)

quotation two-deep. Attention may be drawn, however, to one or two special points. One is the lesson the building itself taught as to the important factor of the age of the cement used, in a building consisting of arch and dome construction on so large a scale. The choir arch, when settled, was found to have risen from the centre on which it had been built by an inch and a half, while the transverse arches across the nave, which are ten feet wider, had only risen half an inch; and this difference was traced to the age of the cement used—nine weeks old in the latter case, as against six weeks old in the former. It was felt that this influence of the expansion of the cement would be still more threatening in the case of the domes, "where there is a body of material 66 feet in diameter and about 700 tons in weight, starting with a thickness of 3 feet and diminishing towards the crown to 13 inches," and it was therefore decreed that no cement should be used until it had been at least thirteen weeks on the site. Disruptive forces attend on the construction as well as on the decay of a great building. It may be noted also that Bentley resisted every temptation to use iron as an essential element of the construction, though we may gather that it was occasionally used on a small scale in the shape of ties. Engineers would no doubt be ready to have pointed out how much trouble and expense would have been saved by the use of iron girders; but where would the majesty of the interior have been then? Bentley, in a letter to Professor Lethaby, expressed his satisfaction that "the old principle of construction is carried on, and that curse of modern construction and source of decay—the use of iron—has been avoided, against the consensus of opinion expressed by the engineers. This much I am proud of, for I feel that a service to building has been effected, and that I have disproved and broken the backbone of that terrible superstition, that the use of iron is necessary to long spans." ("Wide spans" he should rather have expressed it.) And everyone who feels that architecture is an art of poetic con-

ception and expression, and not a mere economic putting together of materials, will sympathise with the feeling here expressed.

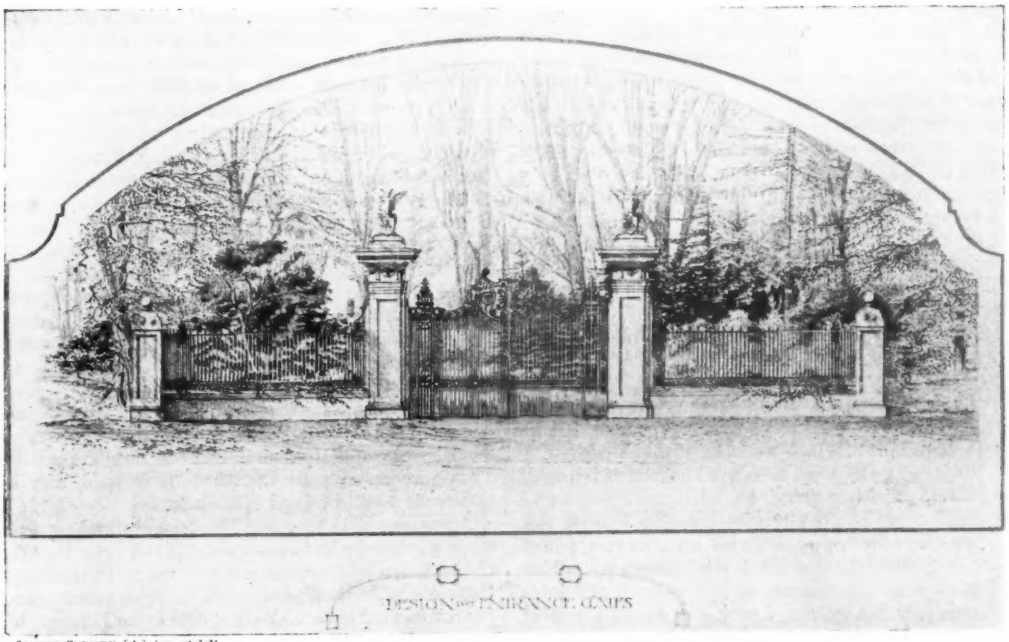
And now, what is the impression produced by the present result of this great structural effort? Taking the interior first, the first impression is that, in view of the ultimate effect contemplated in the completely finished interior, the adoption of a great expanse of wood flooring is a throwing away of a great opportunity; and that, although the wood flooring may go very well with the present masses of brick piers and arches and domes, when (if ever) the piers and arches are cased with marble and the domes decorated in mosaic, the wood floor will have a comparatively mean effect. One may gather that the author of the book has the same feeling. Bentley, it appears, had prepared a grand design for a marble floor, the cost of which was roughly estimated by an English firm at £18,000; an estimate, considering the description of Bentley's design, which was probably a good deal short of the mark, but it seems to have been sufficient to alarm Cardinal Vaughan on the score of economy, although he had himself been pressing the architect for a design for "this splendid floor." It was, perhaps, owing to this alarm about the cost that other reasons were found for objecting to a marble floor; it would be too cold for the feet of the worshippers, and the noise of moving chairs on it would be very disagreeable. This latter objection could surely have been easily overcome by a simple treatment of the feet of the chairs. At any rate, apart from cost, the objections do not seem sufficient to make a case against the scheme, and when the whole interior is veneered in marble it will probably be realised that the effect cannot be complete without a marble floor, though it may have been a point of wisdom to postpone its execution, as it could, of course, be carried out at any time. It may be questioned whether the interior, as ultimately finished, will ever be as striking to the eye and the imagination as it is in its present state. The effect of these great masses of brick piers, and the brick domes over them, is really sublime. The upper portion of the interior looks insufficiently lighted at present; that is because the lighting has been calculated for the finished effect, where it will be quite sufficient; in the meantime, this effect of darkness in the vault perhaps adds to the mystery and solemnity of the interior, which is unequalled in any other building on British ground. And the marble columns, with their varying colours and light-reflecting surfaces, gain immensely by contrast with the dark tone and rough texture of the vast surfaces of brick. Even if it is never finished as intended, or not for a long series of years, we have in the meantime a grand and most impressive interior.

The general lines of the interior perspective completely justify Bentley's determination to carry the columned galleries right through in an unbroken line. In an interior which, though of an ample measured width, is proportionately long and roofed by a succession of domes, the value of a strong horizontal line in binding the whole together is obvious. A wide transept opening could only have been justified by accentuating the dome at that point, making it larger than the others and giving the whole plan a different and more centralised character. Whether all the decorative details, so far as carried out, are equally satisfying may, perhaps, be a question. The variety and beauty, both of design and execution, of the numerous carved capitals, must command general admiration. The inlaid marble walling of the Lady Chapel, graceful and elegant as it is, seems the kind of decoration for secular, rather than sacred walls; apart from its position in the church one might take it for part of the decoration of a large salon or ballroom. The barrel vault of the Lady Chapel is, one supposes, to be ultimately treated in mosaic. And it may be doubted whether the great admiration for the baldachino, implied in the book, will be shared by everyone. It looks rather rigid in line, and the decorative detail is more elaborate than effective. Looking at the screen-wall in front of the sanctuary, as well as at some of the gallery balustrading, one is inclined to suggest that slabs of variegated marble, enclosed in moulded panels, form a kind of decoration of which it is possible to have enough, or a little too much. These are harmless, however, which is more than can be said of the so-called sculpture panels of the Stations of the Cross, fixed up on the sides of many of the piers. By whose approval

these were admitted into the scheme of decoration we are not told. Considered as sculpture they are merely grotesque.

A consideration of the exterior reminds one a little of Michelangelo's remark on San Gallo's model for St. Peter's, "You will find plenty of pasture there," a left-handed compliment whereby the great master really intended to imply that his rival's design was too much cut up into small parts. It is very interesting to go round a building where you come at every turn on a new fancy in detail, and many will feel that this variety constitutes great part of the charm of the building. On the other hand, it might be urged that this multifariousness, if one may use the expression, is carried a little too far; that the whole, to use a commonplace but expressive phrase, needs "pulling together" a little. The entrance doorway, with its surroundings, rather wants repose; there is too much detail, and the portrait medallions, looking as if they were tied on to and hung between the columns, have not a very happy effect. In going round the church there is indeed beautiful and interesting detail to be come upon at every turn, and the tower is really fine; but as a whole the exterior does not rise to the dignity of the interior. Inside, the church is sublime; outside, it seems rather to merit the praise of being picturesque.

Taken altogether, however, it is a great and original architectural monument, the offspring of a genuine architectural enthusiasm, and forms a grand temple devoted to the service of religion. Whether ultimately it may come to be the temple of a more intellectual and spiritual form of Christian worship, must be left to future generations to discover.



JASPER SALWEY [A.] *inv. et delt.*

DESIGN FOR ENTRANCE GATES, WALLINGTON PARK, NORTHUMBERLAND.

[From the Author's Pencil Drawing.

JEAN LOUIS PASCAL.

Membre de l'Institut de France, Royal Gold Medallist.

An Old Pupil's Appreciation.

A great man and a great architect has passed away, and many architects in different countries throughout Europe and America who read the notice of his death will feel themselves the poorer.

I have been asked to write a few words of personal appreciation, and while regretting that I cannot speak of his work, except as his pupil, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of paying my tribute to one to whom, as my Professor for nearly three years, and my friend for over forty years, I feel I owe much that can only be repaid by the way in which I endeavour to meet my responsibilities as an architect—a poor return, but I feel he would not have had me put it otherwise.

It was in the latter half of 1877 that I first had the honour of meeting M. Pascal. He had just succeeded Lefuel as Chief Inspector on the building for the completion of the Louvre. I was but a boy, and perhaps even younger than my years, but I will never forget the sight of the short, well-built man, his coat off, and a cigar in his mouth, who rose from his desk and advanced to meet us, as one of his assistants led us up the long and lofty gallery, which formed his office in the new buildings, to present our letter of introduction from his former pupil Phené Spiers. His fine, intellectual head with his rather long black hair and keen though kindly eyes, and his beautiful courtesy as he greeted my father in perfect English as a brother artist, immediately won my admiration, and I felt that he was just the type of man one would expect to create such work as I had seen and delighted in on my arrival in Paris; and one under whom it would be a privilege to study. To me he seemed then, and I still believe he was, the ideal type of architect, eminently sympathetic, breathing efficiency, and prepared to spend himself in understanding the needs of his day and generation, and giving them artistic expression.

In the atelier it did not seem to take him an instant to realise the possibilities of any sketch that his pupil might put before him, and he always left us either happily convinced that our sketch was not worth further trouble, or with our eyes opened to artistic possibilities in it of which we had not dreamed, giving us courage to go through the days and nights required to make the finished drawings. He had a wonderful power of accepting the conception of his pupil and helping him to develop it in his own way, a power which explained to me later the catholicity of his judgment when on visiting us in Scotland, and later in London, at his request I took him round the later architectural work.

Naturally, as a very junior student I did not at first see or hear about the work that he was doing. He never talked about it or brought it into conversation in the atelier; but later on, as I got to know it, it seemed to me very different from the work then being done by other architects in France. There was no attempt at novelty for the sake of novelty, no conscious individuality. It seemed to rise from a simple plan bearing little evidence of ingenuity, but it had an element of distinction and calm which made one feel, the more familiar one became with it, that it was a piece of splendid sculpture, eminently suited to its purpose. I realised later that such a result could only be attained by genius and hard work.

The last time I saw M. Pascal was on my way to the East in the spring of last year. Always a lonely man, he was in bad health, and having lost several relations and many friends and professional colleagues in the War, was feeling his solitude very keenly, and though he said that my visit had given him courage he insisted on saying "*Adieu*," he would not see me again. "No, no," I said, "not *Adieu! Au revoir!*" and repeated it as I left him. But the last word I heard from him was "*Adieu*."

A splendid kindly soul, his death is his gain. To us he has left a legacy of good work well done—the memory of a generous spirit, ever ready to advise and help, a loyal friend, and to me one of whose like I shall never see again. *R.I.P.*

JOHN J. BURNET [*F.*].

10th June 1920.

Jean Louis Pascal was born in Paris on the 4th June, 1837. At about the age of sixteen he became a pupil of Gilbert, and later entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and the atelier of Questel, where he had as fellow-student, and thereafter life-long friend, the late R. Phené Spiers. His early student honours included the second and the first Prix Rougeoin, the Prix Abel Blouet, and the Grande Médaille d'Emulation. He won a "*loge*" seven times, the second Grand Prix twice, and finally the Grand Prix itself. From 1866 to 1870 he was at the Villa Medicis. On his return from Rome he was appointed Auditor to the Conseil Général des Batiments civils, and Inspector of Works under Lefuel and the Tuileries. He became Patron of his atelier in 1872, was appointed Assessor in public competitions, became Vice-President of the Conseil Général, Member of the Council of the Beaux-Arts and President of the Jury, and also President of the Jury of the Salon, becoming finally Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur, Officier de l'Instruction Publique, Membre de l'Institut de France, and Inspector-General of Civil Buildings.

Numerous illustrations of M. Pascal's architectural work were given in the JOURNAL [27th June 1914] on the occasion of the presentation to him of the Royal Gold Medal. M. Pascal, then in his seventy-ninth year, was unable to make the journey to London, but sent an interesting address, which was read to the meeting by M. Roux, secretary to the French Embassy, and which recalled memories of his early visits to London, the first in 1851, and meetings with archi-

tects whose names have since become household words among us—Ashpitel, Owen Jones, Digby Wyatt, Barry, Pugin, Alfred Stevens, Donaldson, Cockerell, Penrose, Alfred Waterhouse, etc.

Sir Reginald Blomfield, in his address at the presentation to M. Pascal, characterised his architecture as " marked by fastidious scholarship, the distinction and simplicity of manner which is the fit expression of a natural genius for architecture, guided by profound knowledge." Many memorial monuments figure among his purely artistic work, such as the monument to Colonel d'Argy at Rome, Bishop's tomb at the Chapel of La Rochelle, monument to Henri Regnault at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts (in collaboration with Coquart), monuments to Michelet (in the Père-Lachaise), President Carnot (at Bordeaux), Victor Hugo and Charles Garnier (at Paris), and a mausoleum at the cemetery of Montparnasse. Among his buildings are the Château du Doux, Altillac, Corrèze; Faculté de Médecine, Bordeaux; Maison de Bougereau; School and " Mairie," Ablon; apartment houses in the Boulevard Saint-Germain (No. 197) and Rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs; houses in the Rue de Prony (No. 12) and Boulevard de Courcelles (No. 78); house and atelier of the painter Perrault, Boulevard Cannes (No. 43); house in the Boulevard Flandrin; Villa Renouard, Pau; château and estate, Zaral-le-Doux, near Beaulieu; château at Clairefontaine; buildings for the Bank of France; works at the Italian Theatre, at Valence, at Avignon, and at the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The atelier of which M. Pascal was patron dates back 120 years. From M. Delespine (1800–1825), it was successively under the guidance of Blouet, Dubau, Gilbert, and Questel. M. Pascal succeeded in 1872, and his pupils are to be found in every country in Europe, in the United States, and in Canada. Among them are Sir John J. Burnet, R.S.A., LL.D. [*F.*] (who pays tribute to the master in the current issue), Mr. A. N. Paterson, A.R.S.A. [*F.*], Mr. John Keppie, A.R.S.A. [*F.*], Mr. Arthur J. Davis [*F.*] and his late partner, M. Mewès; Mr. Paul Cret, Mr. W. B. Bigelow and Mr. Thomas Hastings, of New York, and Mr. Guy Lowell, of Philadelphia; Signor Luca Beltrami [*Hon. Corr. M.*, Milan], etc. M. Henri P. Nénot [*Royal Gold Medallist* and *Hon. Corr. M.*, Paris], architect of the Sorbonne, and M. Cassieu-Bernard, architect (with M. Cousin) of the Pont Alexandre III., and M. Eugène Duquesne (Grand Prix de Rome, 1897) were among his French pupils.

M. Pascal was associated with M. Guadet in the production of the splendid edition of Blondel's *Architecture Française*, published under the auspices of the French Government. His portrait appears as the frontispiece to Vol. XXI. of the Institute JOURNAL.

9 CONDUIT STREET, REGENT STREET, W., 26*th June* 1920.

CHRONICLE.

R.I.B.A. Roll of Honour.

PIERCE, ARTHUR PATRICK HECTOR [*Associate*] (Auckland). Served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Egypt; died in October, 1918.

HUTTON, LORNE DE H., 2nd Lieut., Machine Gun Corps [*Assoc.*]. Killed in action, March, 1918.

FOSTER, LEONARD, Lieut., West Yorks Regt. [*Student*]. Died of wounds, August, 1916.

COLLINS, SYDNEY T. [*Probationer*]. Died of wounds in France, September, 1918.

JONES, Corporal A. D., R.E., [*Student*]. Died of dysentery, 22nd December, 1919; served three years in Salonika.

The Final Examination and the "Recognised" Schools

The attention of all who are interested in the progress of architectural education and the proper training of architects is drawn to the important decision come to by the Council at their last meeting to exempt from the Final Examination—with the exception of the Professional Practice side—students who have passed the five years' Diploma or Degree course provided by " recognised " Schools and approved by the Council. The terms of the resolution are set out on another page under " Proceedings of the Council." This step has been taken on the recommendation of the Board of Architectural Education, and is putting into practice Mr. Waterhouse's views—his own individual views, as he explained—in his epoch-making Paper on " The Future of Architectural Education " read before the Institute on the 16th February last (JOURNAL, 21st Feb.) Up to the present, Schools have only been " recognised " up to the level of the Intermediate Examination, and it has been difficult to induce students to take a longer school course because it has not led directly to the Final Examination. By recognising the Schools' Diploma or Degree in lieu of part of the Final Examination, students will be given a direct incentive to continue their work in those Schools.

Stoppage of Building.

The Council of the Royal Institute has been requested to hold an enquiry into the effect of the stoppage of building works throughout the country under Section 5 of the Housing Act of 1919. It is therefore desirous of obtaining information relating

thereto. Building owners, architects, and others engaged in building operations are asked to furnish the Secretary of the R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1, with informa tion in writing as soon as possible as to :

(*a*) Buildings which have been stopped during progress,

(*b*) Buildings as to which warning notices have been issued,

(*c*) Buildings which have been prohibited from starting,

under the following heads :

1. The nature of the building so stopped.
2. The cost of such building.
3. The approximate number of men employed in the various trades on such buildings.
4. Any information as to buildings which have been allowed to proceed subject to the substitution of other materials for those originally intended.

Any other information of value will be greatly appreciated.

"Luxury Building": Glasgow Corporation's Prohibition Orders: Appeal Tribunal's Decision against Corporation.

The Appeal Tribunal appointed by the Scottish Board of Health under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, has delivered judgment allowing all the appeals and annulling the nine orders which had been issued by the Glasgow Corporation prohibiting work being proceeded with in connection with cinema theatres. Extracts from the judgment are appended as far as space permits ; the judgment is printed in full in the *Glasgow Herald* for 7th June.

The Tribunal, in its judgment, states that it (the Tribunal) was created by the statute to safeguard the interests of others than those carrying out the housing schemes of local authorities. A statute conferring powers of restricting trade or industry is to be strictly construed against those operating such restrictions. The duty laid upon a local authority is to have regard to the relative public importance of all building operations ; it is not the intention of the statute that the interests of many sections of the building trade should by prohibition be sacrificed to the interests of one section, unless there is no other way, after every effort has been made to find it, of accomplishing the house building. The principle involved is vastly more important than the paltry question whether these particular cinema houses should be built. The power conferred upon the local authority is the regulation of building work, not its indiscriminate prohibition. The statute lays upon the authority the duty of considering the relative "public importance" of all the various kinds of building operations in the city, and in the opinion of the Tribunal the Corporation have failed to appreciate the breadth of meaning of this statutory term "public importance." The provision of dwelling-houses is of course of vast public importance ; but it is of not less public importance that freedom in industry should be maintained. It is of public importance undoubtedly that people who are homeless should be provided with dwelling accommodation, but it is also of public importance that building trade operatives of many classes who are not required for the limited operations of house building should not have their area of employment unnecessarily closed or restricted.

The Tribunal is of opinion that under this statute a local authority has no right at all to make prohibitory orders without having first discharged the primary obligation of making the most searching inquiry as to the necessity for making an order. This primary obligation infers the duty of conference with all parties whom an order may affect. No discussion seems to have taken place between Corporation officials with skilled knowledge of the building industry on the one hand, and the architects and builders concerned with the proposed cinema buildings on the other hand, as to whether, and to what extent, there might be competition between the cinema building and the house building ; and whether if such competition was likely it was not possible for the cinema architects or builders to make concessions or alterations as regards material proposed to be used, or methods of construction to be employed, which would remove, or reduce to negligible dimensions, any likely competition for material or men between the two classes of buildings.

The single purpose of the very exceptional powers of the statute is to draw men to build dwelling-houses, and the prohibitory orders in question have apparently been made upon the assumption that if workmen are prevented building these cinema houses they will necessarily be available to build respondents' dwelling-houses. But there is no evidence to warrant this assumption. It is open to all operatives in the building trade to go to the house building contractors now, if they are patriotically desirous of assisting to build houses ; but apparently they do not go voluntarily, and there is nothing to show that if men are debarred from cinema work they will go to the housing work. It is quite as likely that they would go to the city building work other than houses—perhaps proportionately more likely, for building work other than housing is something like 75 per cent. of the whole building work of the city. There must be more than a mere hope that preventing men building other erections will result in more men for houses ; there must be a reasonable likelihood that it will be so, and that likelihood appears to be somewhat remote as regards these cinemas, most of the labour required for which is different in character from that required for dwelling-houses.

The Tribunal's opinion as to the scope and intention of Section 5 (1) of the Act is—first, that the seriousness of the prohibitory power of Section 5 (1) makes it obligatory upon a local authority, before exercising the power, to exhaust every possible means of avoiding interference with normal freedom of an industry so complex and of such national importance as the building trade ; secondly, that the statute warrants a prohibitory order only as a last resort, the most essential elements in avoiding the necessity for it being (*a*) conference between the practical men who are concerned with the erection of different classes of buildings, and (*b*) the adoption of methods of placing contracts for house building which will encourage the distribution of work and the drawing of labour to house building. The Corporation, having disregarded those primary statutory obligations, were barred from making prohibitory orders under Section 5 (1).

Another Housing Bill.

It is announced that the Government have another Housing Bill on the stocks. The new measure, which is in draft, and will be introduced in a few days' time, will give the Ministry of Health power to stop luxury building and to seize empty houses. The Government have found that their powers under both these heads are inadequate.

Scale of Fees for Housing.

The Council of the Royal Institute desire to call the attention of members to the fact that it is the duty of all members of the Institute to adhere to the Scale of Fees for Housing Schemes which has been agreed upon by the R.I.B.A. in consultation with the Ministry

of Health, and that no member should agree to accept a lower scale of payment without having first communicated with the Royal Institute. The scale referred to is set out in Clause 9 of the Scale of Professional Charges.

The Unification Committee.

The Committee representative of the whole profession which it was decided at the Special General Meeting of the 22nd March should be formed for the purpose of preparing a comprehensive scheme for the unification and registration of the profession, has now been constituted in accordance with the mandate of the General Body. The Committee consists of the following members :—

CHAIRMAN : The President, Mr. John W. Simpson.

PAST-PRESIDENTS : Sir Aston Webb, P.R.A., K.C.V.O., C.B. ; Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., Litt.D.

(A) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE R.I.B.A. :—

8 *Fellows.*—Sir Banister Fletcher, Mr. Paul Waterhouse, F.S.A., Mr. C. Stanley Peach, Mr. A. W. S. Cross, Mr. Arthur Keen, Mr. E. Stanley Hall, Major Harry Barnes, M.P., Mr. James S. Gibson.

7 *Associates.*—Mr. Horace Cubitt, Mr. Herbert A. Welch, Mr. K. Gammell, Mr. W. R. Davidge, Mr. Digby L. Solomon, Mr. G. Leonard Elkington, Mr. P. W. Hubbard.

7 *Licentiates.*—Mr. H. Ascroft, Mr. H. R. Bird, Mr. George Carter, Mr. A. J. Penty, Mr. Francis R. Taylor, Mr. Samuel Taylor, Mr. J. E. Yerbury.

(B) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALLIED SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM :—

1. The Aberdeen Society of Architects.—
2. Birmingham Architectural Association.—Mr. H. T. Buckland [*F.*].
3. Bristol Society of Architects.—Mr. G. C. Lawrence [*A.*].
4. Devon and Exeter Architectural Society.—Mr. Lewis F. Tonar [*Licentiate*].
5. Dundee Institute of Architects.—Mr. A. Granger Heiton.
6. Edinburgh Architectural Association.—Mr. W. T. Oldrieve [*F.*].
7. Glasgow Institute of Architects.—Mr. Wm. B. Whitie [*F.*].
8. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Association of Architects.—Mr. J. B. Healing [*A.*].
9. Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland.—Mr. Lucius O'Callaghan.
10. Leeds and West Yorkshire Architectural Society.—Mr. W. Carby Hall [*F.*].
11. Leicester and Leicestershire Society of Architects.—Mr. A. H. Hind [*F.*].
12. Liverpool Architectural Society.—Mr. T. Taliesin Rees [*F.*].
13. Manchester Society of Architects.—Mr. A. W. Hennings [*F.*].
14. Northamptonshire Association of Architects.—Mr. J. Alfred Gotch, F.S.A. [*F.*]
15. Northern Architectural Association.—Mr. C. S. Errington [*F.*].
16. Nottingham and Derby Architectural Society.—Mr. H. G. Watkins [*F.*].
17. Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Architectural Society.—Mr. C. B. Flockton [*F.*].
18. South Wales Institute of Architects.—Mr. Ivor Jones [*A.*].
19. York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society.—Mr. L. Kitchen [*F.*].
20. The Institute of Scottish Architects.

(C) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALLIED SOCIETIES IN THE DOMINIONS :—

Africa : Mr. Herbert Baker [*F.*].
Australia : Major H. C. Corlette, O.B.E., R.B.C, [*F*].
Canada : Mr. Andrew T. Taylor [*F.*].
New Zealand : Mr. S. Hurst Seager [*F.*].

(D) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION (LONDON).—Mr. Maurice E. Webb, D.S.O., M.C. [*F.*] ; Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, A.R.A. [*F.*].

(E) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.—Mr. Edwin J. Sadgrove [*F.*] ; Sir Charles T. Ruthen, O.B.E. [*F.*] ; Mr. A. Burnett Brown ; Mr. George H. Paine ; Mr. Noel D. Sheffield ; Mr. Edwin J. Partridge ; Mr. C. McArthur Butler.

(F) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARCHITECTS' AND SURVEYORS' ASSISTANTS' PROFESSIONAL UNION.—Mr. R. G. Llewellyn-Evans ; Mr. Chas. McLachlan [*A.*].

(G) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICIAL ARCHITECTS' ASSOCIATION.—Mr. W. E. Riley [*F.*] ; Mr. Sydney Perks, F.S.A. [*F.*].

(H) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULSTER SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.—Mr. N. Fitzsimons [*F.*].

(I) REPRESENTATIVES OF ARCHITECTS UNATTACHED TO ANY PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION.—Mr. G. E. Marshall (Liverpool) ; Mr. A. H. Mooring Aldridge (Bournemouth) ; Mr. A. M. Cawthorne (London).

Building Trade Wages.

In *The Times* of the 17th inst. it was stated that contractors are prepared to compete for the available labour in the building trade by offering higher payment for it. Mr. Arthur Keen, Hon. Sec. R.I.B.A., in a letter in *The Times* of the 18th, pointed out that "the reason is not far to seek. It is that the increased payment comes, not out of the contractor's pocket, but out of that of his employer, the building owner. The contract is no longer an agreement to carry out specified work for a definite sum of money ; it provides either for the execution of the work at a certain rate of profit on the actual cost, or for the payment of a sum which is to be adjusted in the settlement of accounts to agree with any increase that may take place in the cost of labour or material. The obvious result is that contractors have no interest in resisting claims for increased payment—indeed, their interest is often the other way, because their profit increases with the cost of the work. The system is thoroughly bad, but there seems to be no alternative to it under existing conditions. Probably the best form of contract is that which provides for a lump sum profit, to be increased if the work is done for less than the estimated cost and reduced if this cost is exceeded. Unfortunately, the drawback to it is that the easiest way to reduce the cost of work is to reduce the quality."

Height of Rooms in New Houses.

Replying to a deputation of London members of Parliament and members of the London County Council, who urged objections to the reduction of the height of rooms in the housing schemes from 8 feet 6 inches to 8 feet, Dr. Addison said that by a saving of 6 inches in the height they would gain an equivalent of 20 cubic feet of floor space. The question of the height of a room was immaterial in respect to ventilation in houses where windows were made to open.

He was quite prepared to make exceptions in crowded areas, and would willingly discuss any such proposals with representatives of the Council.

The City Churches.

The London Diocesan Conference, at its resumed sitting at the Church House, Westminster, on the 17th inst., when the Bishop of London presided, approved the first part of a resolution moved by Canon Masterman (Rector of St. Mary-le-Bow), to the effect that the Conference recognised the pressing need for such a rearrangement of the City parishes as would enable the resources of the City churches to be used to greater advantage for the spiritual life of London.

The Conference rejected by large majorities the remaining clauses of the motion, to the effect that the Conference considered that (*a*) the number of churches that it was proposed should be demolished was considerably larger than the circumstances of the case could justify ; (*b*) the formation of four large parishes was too violent a break in the historical continuity of the ecclesiastical life of the City ; (*c*) the administration of the surplus funds should be entrusted to an *ad hoc* committee, on which City interests should be adequately represented, and in view of possible changes in the future, the capital sum should be kept intact, only the income being expended.

Professor Beresford Pite [*F.*], who appealed for the condemned churches as an architect on æsthetic grounds, moved an amendment expressing disapproval of " any further secularisation of consecrated buildings and sites within the area of the City of London." He was supported by Mr. Basil Holmes. The amendment was rejected.

The Society of Antiquaries have passed the following protest :—

The publication of the report of the Bishop of London's Commission on the City Churches, recommending the disuse and complete or partial demolition of no less than nineteen churches, of which thirteen are the work of Sir Christopher Wren, has created a situation which demands the closest scrutiny.

The Society of Antiquaries of London, while recognising the need for a change in the present organisation of the City parishes, is confident that by adopting the drastic recommendations of the report the Church will stand to lose far more than she will gain. Greatly as we must deplore the splendid buildings destroyed by the Fire of London, their loss provided an opportunity such as seldom comes to any nation, and it was the great good fortune of England that the rebuilding of the City churches could be put into the hands of Sir Christopher Wren. At the time of his death in 1723, at the age of ninety-one, some fifty churches, designed by his hand, adorned the rebuilt City, a priceless and unique record of the life work of one of the greatest English architects.

Of the building of these churches a complete account is preserved. Not only do we know the dates when they were begun and finished, but we have every detail of their cost, and, what is even more valuable, the names of every craftsman employed on them, whether as mason, carpenter, joiner, plasterer, smith or in other trades. All materials for a close and critical study of the craftsmanship of the end of the seventeenth century are ready to our hands, so long as the buildings themselves are preserved. Nor is it only in their architectural merit that their value lies. Owing to the necessity for rebuilding the City on its old lines, the new churches preserved the site-plans of their predecessors, and in many cases included parts of their fabrics, presenting for us much of the topography of the mediæval City which had been so completely swept away, and giving a historical continuity which added just that element of tradition and romance to which the new buildings by themselves could never attain.

Since they were built the conditions of life in London have entirely changed. The business population, whose homes are elsewhere, has increased enormously. The residents have dwindled to a comparatively insignificant number. The values of the sites have grown out of all proportion to what they were in the seventeenth century, while the congregations of the churches are in many cases reduced to a mere handful. Already seventeen of Wren's churches have been destroyed, and if the present report is adopted no less than thirty out of the original fifty will have disappeared. Some re-adjustment is needed, but not one which will inflict so heavy a loss on future ages. Something of the full pecuniary value of the churches and their sites must be foregone in order to preserve what no money can buy. A redistribution of their endowments has long been overdue, but to deal with ancient and historical sites as if they were occupied by nothing better than obsolete industrial buildings is a policy which no pecuniary gain can justify. Churches no longer needed for their original purpose, if such exist, should be put to some use which is not inconsistent with their preservation, and it is to such matters that the efforts of the Commission should be directed.

Empire Timber Exhibition.

The Department of Overseas Trade in promoting the Empire Timber Exhibition, to be held at Holland Park Skating Rink, W., from the 5th to the 17th July, aims at introducing to the British timber trade the wide range of timbers grown within the Empire. Many of these are but little known in the United Kingdom. At the same time the Exhibition will demonstrate how, under the stress of war, the home grown timbers were further exploited and developed, and the possibilities of larger development in the future.

Practically every timber-growing country in the Empire is represented either by an official exhibit or a private firm or both. The Dominions of Canada, New Zealand, and Newfoundland, the Indian Empire, the Governments of Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Union of South Africa, the administration of British Honduras, British Guiana, Ceylon, Gold Coast, Trinidad, Fiji, Nigeria and East Africa Protectorate, are all exhibiting.

Exhibits will be shown both in the rough and in the finished state, polished and unpolished, everything from the sawn log to the carved panel, from a lead pencil in cedar to a railway carriage in teak. A feature of the Western Australian exhibit will be a panelled room and furniture made of jarrah (Western Australian mahogany, or everlasting wood). The extraordinary durability of this wood is exemplified by various posts and rafters, which show little sign of deterioration after periods of 60 years in the ground or roof as the case may be.

A special exhibit of interest in the Indian Empire Section is a series of wood specimens bound in book form with a rosewood cover.

The catalogue is designed to be not only a temporary guide but also a reference work of lasting value. A combined index with cross references will enable the reader to trace rapidly any information required on any given timber. Both trade and botanical names are given, countries of origin, shippers from countries of origin and importers into the United Kingdom. In addition to the botanical details are given full descriptions of the wood, its general characteristics, tension strength, and much useful commercial data. This information has been collected from the Forest Departments of the Empire, and should be of unique value to the home trade.

Economically the Exhibition should have excellent results for the home timber trade in making an opportunity for the development of new sources of supply, the extension of established ones and the first-hand study of a world-wide range of timbers. The more the Imperial timber trade is developed the more hope there is for the stabilisation and reduction of prices. From the patriotic side also any encouragement to the Imperial trade is a gain, both moral and actual.

The exhibits sent by the Government of Ceylon include several valuable and beautiful woods for cabinet and furniture making, including rosewood, plain and flowered satinwood, and ebony, plain, streaked and speckled. There will also be an exhibit of Honduras mahogany grown in Ceylon, where the tree was introduced twenty-five years ago and has readily adapted itself. An exhibit of Ceylon ironwood is an example of the extraordinary durability of some Eastern timbers. The gates of Kalpitiya Fort, made of this wood, are sound after 135 years, and there are piles at Mannar which have remained sound though exposed to sea-water for a period of 100 years.

A number of useful woods from British East Africa are exhibited which are at present little known in the British market. The exhibits also include East African ebony, which is usually shipped from Zanzibar, and is well known in the trade under the name of African blackwood. Cedar for pencil making is shown both in rough slats and in slats prepared for export. Another exhibit will show the use of the East African bamboo in the preparation of pulp for the manufacture of paper. The Imperial Institute are now arranging experiments in this connection which should lead to the development of an important industry. Sportsmen will be interested in the golf club heads made from munderendu, a wood which is considered most suitable for axe, hoe, and other tool handles.

Exhibits from West Africa show timbers from the Gold Coast and Nigeria which are already well known to the trade in this country, such as mahogany and African teak; but there are also several timbers not yet familiar to English users which are well worth future development.

The West Indian exhibits include Honduras mahogany, which holds a foremost place in the trade for furniture-making and panelling, and was proved during the war to be one of the very best materials for aeroplane propellers. Mahogany substitutes, such as bruin-heart, crabwood, and purple-heart, are also shown. The collection of West Indian cedars includes white cedar, black cedar and red or brown cedar, of which the latter is extensively used for the manufacture of cigar boxes. The rosewood of British Honduras is closely allied to East Indian rosewood, which is much valued for cabinet work, furniture, inlaying, turning, etc. Other interesting specimens from the West Indies include greenheart and mora, which are rated first class at Lloyd's for shipbuilding; guano blossom, which is recommended for trial in the preparation of wood pulp; and logwood and fustic, already well known in this country and used for the preparation of black and khaki dyes respectively.

Non-Poisonous Paints as "Primers."

H.M. Office of Works have issued the following Memorandum on the Test of Non-Poisonous Paints for "Priming" Iron and Steel:—

It is now 12 or 13 years since the Department decided to adopt non-poisonous paints for use on buildings in their charge and the results have been satisfactory. It is found that paints prepared on a base of zinc, iron oxide, etc., with proper mediums, afford quite as good protection to wood and ironwork as paints mixed on a lead base, and the risk of lead poisoning to the mixers and users of the paint is thereby eliminated.

The question was raised by the Home Office Committee on paints in 1911 whether it was not also possible to dispense with red and orange lead as "primers" for iron and steel, and to arrive at a decision it was decided to carry out a series of tests at Kew Gardens. These were conducted on about 100 samples supplied by specialist paint firms or mixed to specifications prepared by the Department. They were also tested alongside red and orange lead paints. The pigments used in the samples included lead carbonate, lead oxide, lead chromate, zinc oxide, lithopone, zinc chromate, barium chromate, various iron oxides, graphite, bitumen, with the usual "extenders" barium sulphate, silica and magnesium silicate, in various proportions.

It was recognised that pigment is not the only factor in the composition of paint, the medium being very important in a protective paint film. Linseed oil is the medium most commonly used in the samples, but this in many cases had an addition of good varnish, Chinese tung oil or tung oil varnish.

The samples were all put on duplicate iron plates which had been thoroughly cleaned and dried in the painters' shop, each sample covering an area of about 12 inches by 4 inches. After two days one plate was exposed to the weather on a wall facing south and the second plate in the warm damp atmosphere of a tropical greenhouse. The conditions in this latter case were most severe, as there was always condensation on the plates and they were often sprayed with water when the plants were receiving attention. The plates were examined once every 12 months over a period of four years by three officers of the Department and marks awarded at each examination.

The best results under the conditions obtaining in the tropical greenhouse were given by the red leads, which gained the first and fourth places in the list, but mixed paints on bases of zinc and lead chromate were second and third on the list; others with iron oxide, lead zinc and barium chromate, and zinc and iron oxide, were respectively fifth, sixth and seventh on the list, and all gave very good results. Most of these best paints had a special medium.

The most important tests, however, from a practical point of view were those of plates exposed to the weather under ordinary conditions. The first places were taken by a black iron oxide paint and a silica-graphite paint—these being bracketed equal—whilst another silica-graphite paint was placed second. Lead chromate paints and mixtures of chromate of lead and zinc, zinc chromate, and lead

zinc and barium chromate, all took high places, as also oxides of iron with and without zinc.

The silica-graphite paints were considered suitable for use as "primers" when followed by similar paint. They give no tooth for hard finishings, and when they are used as finishings are liable to rub off where handled, but they are good for bridges, roofs, etc. Red lead paint was 17th on the list, under ordinary exposure, thus showing that suitable paints can be obtained that obviate the use of this poisonous material.

It should be stated that all the paints referred to were mixed paints as supplied by various makers, and the maximum of 5 per cent. of soluble lead, as recommended by the Home Office Committee, was not exceeded.

Smoke Evil: Government Committee's Recommendations.

The Ministry of Health Committee on Smoke and Noxious Vapours Abatement, of which Lord Newton is Chairman, in a short interim report just published, deals with the domestic aspect of the smoke question, in particular reference to the present housing situation.

The report states that domestic soot contains a higher percentage of carbon and tar than factory soot, and is, therefore, more obnoxious and adhesive than the latter. At least half the total output of smoke is domestic, and at least 6 per cent. of the coal ordinarily burnt in domestic grates escapes as soot. The loss amounts to nearly 2½ million tons of soot (*i.e.*, waste fuel) per annum. The annual domestic consumption of crude coal in the metropolitan area is only 4⅜ million tons. It is estimated that the amount of fuel wasted throughout the country every year would warm all London for at least six months.

The Committee feel strongly that the new houses must not perpetuate the smoke evil; "a unique opportunity for constructive reform" must not be lost. Accordingly the Committee have investigated various ways in which heat can be supplied to the new houses without burning raw coal in domestic grates, the Committee being guided throughout by three main questions—(1) whether the schemes suggested were practicable; (2) whether they were hygienic; (3) whether they were relatively economical. In one scheme investigated there was an initial structural saving estimated at £30 per house effected by the substitution of smokeless for old-fashioned methods. This scheme is in actual operation at Northfield, near Birmingham.

The Committee recommend that sanction to housing schemes submitted by local housing authorities or public utility societies should be conditional upon the provision of smokeless methods of heating. They express themselves as satisfied that means which produce little or no smoke are available and practicable for cooking, heating water, and warming rooms, and summarise their general conclusions as follows:—

(1) Subject to the opinion previously expressed with regard to the future possibilities of electricity as a heating agent, we think that wherever a supply of gas is available a gas cooker should be installed in lieu of a coal range.

(2) The cheapest and most efficient method of providing a supply of hot water, where a central supply is not practicable, is by a coke-fired boiler.

(3) A central hot-water supply for detached houses, where practicable, is a desirable system, if it can be provided at a moderate cost. Practical experiments in this direction are urgently needed, and should be given every encouragement.

(4) For tenement houses a central supply of hot water is quite practicable, and should be provided universally.

(5) The system of installing separate central-heating plants in each house, heated by coke or anthracite, should be employed far more widely than is at present the case.

(6) As far as practicable gas fires or hot-water radiators (or electric radiators, subject to the question of cost) should entirely supersede the old-fashioned open coal fire, adequate means for proper ventilation being provided.

(7) We are aware that there is still a strong prejudice in many quarters in favour of an open coal fire, and we therefore limit our recommendation to this extent—namely, that in none of the houses built with the assistance of the Government subsidy should more than one or, in exceptional circumstances, two coal grates be installed. Wherever coal ranges and coal grates are installed they should be of a type adapted to the use of coke as well as of coal. Adequate means of regulating the draught should in all cases be provided.

With regard to the question of domestic heating in general, we are struck by the absence of full and scientific knowledge. We think that the whole subject of hygienic and scientific heating deserves a very much greater measure of public attention than it has hitherto received.

Increased Grants to Private Persons Building Houses.

The Ministry of Health in a recently published memorandum state they have had under further consideration the conditions governing grants to private persons constructing houses under Section 1 of the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919; and have decided to make the following modifications in the arrangements already announced in the memorandum on "Grants to Private Persons or Bodies of Persons Constructing Houses under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919."

1. In the case of houses which are completed within 12 months of the passing of the Act, *i.e.*, before 23rd December, 1920, the amounts of the grants will be as follows:—

(*a*) In respect of houses containing two living rooms (*i.e.*, living room and parlour) and three or four bedrooms, and comprising *not less* than 920 feet super of floor area—£260 per house.

(*b*) In respect of houses containing one living room and three bedrooms, and comprising *not less* than 780 feet super of floor area—£240 per house.

(*c*) In respect of houses containing one living room and two bedrooms and comprising not less than 700 feet super of floor area—£230 per house.

In the case of one-storey cottages or flats, where a common staircase is provided, the minimum superficial areas referred to in paragraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above may be reduced by 40 feet super respectively.

No grant will be made in respect of any house with more than four bedrooms, or which has a superficial floor area in excess of 1,400 feet. The local authority may approve the inclusion of rooms other than those specifically referred to in paragraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), provided that the sizes of all the rooms are not less than the minimum sizes authorised in the case of houses built by local authorities.

The increases prescribed by this memorandum apply in respect of all houses which were commenced on or after the 1st April last. In the case of houses which were commenced before that date the amount of the grant previously authorised will be increased by £50,

or by £33 6s. 8d. where under the terms of the previous memorandum the grant was reducible by one-third.

The conditions contained in paragraph 3 of the previous memorandum, as to the reduction of grant where houses are not completed within 12 months of the passing of the Act, will apply to these increased grants.

2. Subject to the sanction of the Ministry grants will be available for houses built in flats of more than two storeys in height, in areas where there is a demand for accommodation of this kind. Each flat complying with the conditions as to floor space and accommodation will be treated as one house.

3. The Local Authority may require the applicant to give to them an undertaking in writing to pay to them a fee not exceeding £3 3*s*. for each type of house for which separate plans are required, in respect of any expenses incurred by them in the examination of plans, etc., in connection with the applications; such fee to be payable after certificate B has been issued.

The forms of certificate appended to the memorandum may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office.

Treatment of Unhealthy Areas.

Housing (the Ministry of Health's organ), of the 21st June publishes numerous extracts from the Interim Report of the Committee appointed by the Minister of Health to consider and advise on the Principles to be followed in dealing with unhealthy areas. The Committee was constituted as follows:—Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P. (Chairman); Mrs. E. Barton, of the Sheffield City Council and the Woman's Co-operative Guild; Mr. E. J. Brown, F.I.O.B.; Right Hon. C. W. Bowerman, M.P.; Dr. W. J. Howarth, C.B.E., Medical Officer of Health to the Corporation of London; Mr. R. C. Maxwell, O.B.E., LL.D., Minister of Health; Mr. G. L. Pepler, F.S.I., P.T.P.I., Minister of Health; Captain R. L. Reiss, Chairman of Executive Committee, the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association; and Mr. H. Jennings (Secretary).

The reference was in the following terms: "To consider and advise on the Principles to be followed in dealing with unhealthy areas, including the circumstances in which schemes of reconstruction, as distinct from clearance, may be adopted, and, as regards cleared areas, the extent to which rehousing on the site should be required, the kind of housing which should be permitted, and the use of the site for factory or other purposes than housing.

[This Interim Report relates in particular to the Metropolitan area to which the first investigations were directed, as it was considered that London presented many features which were unique. The Report was signed by all the Committee, subject to certain reservations on the part of particular members.]

Discussing alternative methods for dealing with overcrowding, the Committee are of opinion that in view of the excess population in the crowded areas of London, there are only two main alternatives by way of remedy. The one is to allow the population to expand vertically instead of horizontally; the other, to remove a large part of it bodily elsewhere, re-arranging what is left on the old sites, but with adequate accommodation, including the requisite open spaces. The first alternative has recently attracted a good deal of attention. It has been represented that it would require no interference with existing industries, and that the piling up of the population in lofty buildings would enable considerable open spaces to be left below, which could be used as recreation grounds for children or as parks and gardens. Nevertheless, the Committee are convinced on the evidence before them that this system is quite unsuitable for people who are dependent on their own efforts for domestic services and the care of their children.

The second alternative, namely, Redistribution, requires considerable time in its application, and must be combined with measures of prevention as well as of cure. It would be useless to hope for improvement in the congested areas if these are allowed to become still more congested by the further demolition of houses to make way for more profitable buildings, and it would appear necessary to take measures to discourage any increase of labour-employing establishments in such areas. . . .

Many of the factories now located in London might apparently have been placed elsewhere without any disadvantage to themselves, and the Committee express themselves as strongly of opinion that, side by side with the restrictions suggested upon factories in London, there should be encouraged the starting of new industries and the removal of existing factories to garden cities which should be founded in the country where the inhabitants will live close to their work under the best possible conditions. Generally speaking, these communities should not exceed from 30,000 to 50,000 people, and should be surrounded by a belt of agricultural land for the purpose of health and recreation, and for local food production.

The Committee summarise their conclusions as follows:

1. The size and complexity of the problem require that it should be attacked from many sides at once, and prompt attention should be given to measures which may prevent any extension of the difficulties now existing. Among these measures we recommend that the development of self-contained garden cities, either round an existing nucleus or on new sites, should be encouraged and hastened by State assistance in the early stages.

2. We recommend that either the Parliament of London if set up, or, if not, some new authority to be instituted after enquiry, should be given power over a wide area, embracing the Home Counties, as well as the Metropolitan and City Police Districts, to prepare a general plan of the area, to control its transport system and to make such financial adjustments between the local authorities concerned as may be necessary.

3. In the central areas we recommend that local authorities should be given powers to declare overcrowded districts "congested areas," and thereafter to prohibit the demolition of houses or the erection of buildings other than dwellinghouses in those areas without a licence from the local authority. Further, we recommend that all such local authorities should be urged to adopt the Model Byelaws under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, of 1919 (Series XIII (6), published on p. 87 of Vol. II of the Manual on Unfit Houses and Unhealthy Areas, issued by the Minister of Health), which define the conveniences, etc., which must be provided before a single-family house may be let for occupation by more than one family.

4. In view of the impossibility of carrying through reconstruction schemes in unhealthy areas on a large scale while the present shortage of houses exists, we recommend as a temporary measure that local authorities should be urged to adopt the procedure of section 13 of the Housing Act of 1919, and purchase thereunder the lands and the dwelling-house property thereon in areas which have been by resolution declared to be unhealthy, thereafter renovating, repairing and improving the property and managing it on the Octavia Hill system.

The Future of Ypres.

Senator Vinck and M. Van der Swaelmen in an article entitled "The Problem of Ypres" in the current issue of the *Garden Cities and Town Planning Magazine*, describe the scheme for the future of Ypres which is put forward by the "Union des Villes et Communes belges" and the Commission specially appointed to study the matter of reconstruction. This conception is favoured by the permanent advisory committee of architects appointed by the Belgian Government to be attached to the Department of the Devastated Regions with a view to the co-ordination of architectural works in the region. The scheme has the support of the Department itself, of the Minister of the Interior, and of the great majority of Belgian artists and town planners. "Their aim," say the writers, "is to keep and protect devoutly the tragic ruins and to put between them and the noisy fire of civic and commercial life a natural protective screen of trees and vegetation." They propose (*a*) to enclose the sacred area with hedges, making it a green shrine; (*b*) to protect the shrine by a broad girdle of trees, following the line of the surrounding market place so as to keep the old topography—this girdle would create a zone of complete quietness; (*c*) the houses to be removed to a line behind this zone, and subjected to certain rules forbidding their use for cafés, etc. The carrying out of this proposal offers two alternatives: (*a*) Should a great number of citizens be willing to return and rebuild, the new civic centre would have to be planned a hundred yards south of the old market place; (*b*) supposing the returning citizens are not so numerous, the civic centre would be left at the east end of the old market place, but be completely separated from the ruins by the protecting girdle of trees. The Government has been asked to make a serious inquiry amongst all the Ypres citizens in order to discover exactly if their intention is to come back.

The above scheme, however, is strongly opposed by the municipal authorities. Their aim is to sweep away the tragic ruins and to rebuild on the cleared spot the Cloth Hall and St. Martin's Cathedral. Their intention, too, is to rebuild the private houses in their ancient aspect. This conception is supported by certain archæological societies —societies which, according to the writers of the above-mentioned article, do not seem in Belgium to have reached an equal stage of development to that of similar societies in England, France, and Holland.

Compensation for War Damage.

The Committee on War Damage was formed at a public meeting held on 8th October, 1915, and a memorial calling upon the Government to abandon their scheme of War Damage Insurance, and to compensate all sufferers from air raids and bombardment out of National Funds, was prepared. The Committee at first failed to get any result from their appeal; but Mr. Asquith, just before his resignation, informed the Committee that his Government had agreed to reconsider the matter, and in July, 1917, the new Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, received the Committee's deputation, when the memorial was presented on behalf of 842 municipal authorities, representing some 32 million people, and a number of City Guilds, Chambers of Commerce, and other corporations. Mr. Lloyd George, in reply, said that in principle the Committee had certainly made out a case; that the people ought to be protected against the consequences of these barbarities, and without distinction of rich or poor. In principle, he accepted the case on behalf of the Government.

Up to the present only partial effect has been given to the Prime Minister's pronouncement. Put shortly, the results obtained by the Committee thus far are as follows:—(1) A reduction of 50 per cent. on the premiums for insurance. Through this reduction the annual premiums paid by 95 municipal authorities were reduced by more than £30,000. The City of London alone saved the sum of £6,350 per annum on air raid insurance premiums paid on corporate property only. (2) Compensation, by way of grace, in certain cases for personal injuries. (3) Compensation for injury to property since August, 1917, in certain cases up to £500: under this scheme 5,553 awards have been made, amounting to a total of £101,402. In November, 1918, pending the further consideration of the memorial, the Government agreed to regard all aircraft and bombardment insurance policies as renewed without payment of further premiums. The total amount of premiums paid up to that date exceeded £13,000,000, the Government then having a balance in hand of £10,680,000.

Further correspondence with Ministers and interviews with Government Departments resulted, on 20th January last, in the Committee being authorised to issue a letter to the municipal authorities stating that the Government required the full particulars of all claims for damage done by enemy air raids and bombardments for the purpose of the preparation of claims to be put forward by the British Reparation Commissioner to the Reparation Commission under the Peace Treaty.

On 27th March the Chairman of the Committee was able to send a letter to the Press stating that at last there was evidence that the Government were dealing with the matter in earnest, and that forms could now be obtained on application to Mr. W. Neill, Controller, Reparation Claim Department, Board of Trade, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, S.E. The forms to be filled up were:—(1) Damage due to loss of life of British civilians; (2) Damage to British civilians due to personal injury; (3) Damage to British civilians by loss of or injury to property; (4) Damage caused to British civilians by being forced to labour without just remuneration. Particulars were asked to be furnished of all injuries which had been compensated in whole or in part from private or public charitable funds, as in the end all such funds should be reimbursed.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mark H. Judge [*A.*], writes that his Committee are issuing a statement (the gist of which is set out above) to municipal and other public bodies throughout the country, and that a copy has been sent to the Prime Minister with a covering letter signed by Lord Parmoor, Sir Wm. H. Dunn, and Mr. Mark Judge, in which the following paragraph from the statement is quoted:—

"Under these circumstances it is felt that the Committee may now rely on the Government giving full effect to the pronouncement of the Prime Minister on 13th July, 1917, so soon as the Reparation Claims Department of the Board of Trade have tabulated the Returns of Damage done by Air Raid and Bombardment; especially when it is remembered that the Government made a profit of more than £10,000,000 on the premiums paid."

The letter concludes with the expression of the hope that as soon as the returns are tabulated, compensation will be at once paid by the Government, without waiting for its payment by our late enemies.

The Rockefeller Foundation Gift.

According to *The Daily Mail*, the Rockefeller Foundation gift of £1,205,000 to University College Hospital Medical

School is to be expended as follows:—New Nurses' Home, £103,000; New Obstetrics Unit, £109,500; New Residents' Quarters, £31,000; Bio-Chemical Laboratory, £50,750; Reconstruction of hospital wing, open-air galleries, theatres, alterations, contingency fund, £106,000. Building work for University College will comprise an Institute of Anatomy, to which £189,800 is allotted for site, buildings, equipment, and library. The rest of the money (some £615,000) is to be devoted to maintenance.

Regulation of Advertisements.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Bill, now before the House of Lords, to amend the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907, proposes to give local authorities power by by-law to regulate all advertisements on lands and buildings, except those of public authorities and those within buildings. They will further have power to prohibit advertisements which do not relate to the land or building on which they are intended to be exhibited, and also moving or flash-light advertisements. Powers are given to deal with advertisements of a repulsive or demoralising character.

The Architectural Association.

With a view to widening the scope and usefulness of the Association, a Country Membership Section has been created, limited to members of architectural societies recognised by the Council of the Architectural Association and whose headquarters are not less than 50 miles distant from Charing Cross. Country members will have the use of the employment register, the library (books sent by post), full use of the Association's premises when in London, and are entitled to attend excursions and visits.

Australian Architects: Code of Professional Conduct.

From the Federal Council of the Australian Institute of Architects has been received a copy of the "Code of Ethics" recommended for adoption by the Australian State Institutes of Architects. It consists in all of fourteen definite rules, most of them identical in substance with the R.I.B.A. Council resolutions relating to "Professional Conduct, etc.," published in the KALENDAR, p. 60, and including rules directed against the practices referred to in the Declarations signed by Members and Licentiates of the R.I.B.A. The Code also condemns as an offence conduct recognised here to be unprofessional though not the subject of specific rule. For instance, it is unprofessional for a member to criticise in the public prints the professional conduct or work of another member except over his own name or under the authority of a professional journal. No member should submit drawings except as an original contributor in any duly instituted competition, or attempt to secure any work for which such a competition remains undecided. No member shall compete in amount of commission or offer to work for less than the Scale of Charges drawn up by the Federal Council of the Australian Institutes of Architects. No member shall enter into partnership in any form, or degree, with any builder or contractor. No member shall be a party to a building contract except as "architect" or "proprietor." No member should guarantee an estimate or contract by personal bond. It is also laid down to be unprofessional to practise with an architect who has been expelled from, or is not a member of, a recognised institute of architects. The interests of pupils and assistants have also to be considered, a member being expected so to conduct his practice as to forward the cause of professional education and render all possible help to juniors, draughtsmen, and students.

A Gift of Polish Architectural Designs.

M. Constantin Jakimowicz, Official Delegate of the Polish Government, and representative of the Association of Polish Architects of Warsaw (of which he is past President) at the Inter-Allied Housing and Town Planning Congress held in London from 27th May to 5th June, during his visit to London personally presented to the Library several books, as well as designs, of characteristic Polish architecture, by S. Noakowski and others.

M. Fleury Goyus, Deputy Mayor of Lyons, M. E. Galland, Architect and Member of the Conseil Municipal at Lyons, and delegates at the Congress, called at the Library to inspect the Civic Survey diagrams, which were also inspected by M. Augustin Rey, of Paris, who represented at the Inter-Allied Housing and Town Planning Congress the various architectural and other societies interested in the housing question in France.

Liege Defence Memorial.

The province and town of Liège have decided to erect a monument commemorating the defence of Belgium against the German invader. A sum of 1,000,000f. has been subscribed for the project. The design for the memorial will be decided by a competition open to architects and sculptors of Belgian nationality or subjects of the Allied Powers. The conditions of the competition may be obtained from M. Léon Maréchal, Bureau des Beaux-Arts, Hotel de Ville, Liège, Belgium. A map of the selected site will be sent on receipt of 5f.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Recent Acquisitions.

The Victoria and Albert Museum has received from Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild a most valuable gift, consisting of a magnificent pair of silver-gilt candlesticks for an altar, enriched with enamels and plaques of rock crystal, Italian work of the highest quality, dating from the sixteenth century. The gift is of peculiar importance, inasmuch as the altar cross belonging to the candlesticks is already in the possession of the Museum, having been acquired in 1861 at the time of the dispersal of the Soltykoff Collection, in which it was one of the most notable objects.

The group of three pieces is attributed to Valerio Belli of Vicenza, whose work in the carving of crystal is celebrated by Vasari. The carvings of the cross are of exceptional beauty, and the distinction of style of the work in enamelled silver is equally striking, so that the whole represents a very remarkable artistic achievement. The set is said to have been made originally for François I. of France.

The candlesticks were shown by the late Mr. Leopold de Rothschild at an exhibition held at St. James's Court in 1903, and there came under the observation of the Museum. The discovery of an obscure pamphlet supplied evidence of their origin, and the group formed the subject of a notice in the *Burlington Magazine* for 1906, when the relations existing between the cross and the candlesticks was made known. Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, in presenting the candlesticks, and thereby bringing the group once more together, has shown true appreciation of a great artist's work. Her generous and public-spirited action is a matter of congratulation to the public generally as well as to those who are more directly interested in the development

of our national collections as a means of advancing the industries of the country.

This group of objects has been placed on exhibition in the East Hall.

There has also been arranged in the East Hall (Ground Floor) an exhibition of the additions made to the collections during the last year or two. Many of them were received at a time when no grant was available for the purchase of works of art for the Museum, and some were given in memory of the fallen. In addition to those which have been already described in these columns the following are worthy of special notice.

Mr. Alfred Simson has given an important example of German sculpture of the early sixteenth century—a head of St. John the Baptist in carved and painted plane-wood, one of a numerous group of such objects made to be put up in chapels or churches dedicated to the saint on the anniversary of his Decollation. This work is very close to that of the great Tyrolese master, Michael Pacher. An example of Eastern art is a terra-cotta head of a man given by Sir Charles Marling, K.C.M.G. This is of Persian origin and dates perhaps from the 12th century. The fine fifteenth century English alabaster altar-piece from Lord Swansea's collection at Singleton Abbey, already described in THE JOURNAL, is also exhibited in the East Hall.

Books Received.

The Foundations of Classic Architecture. Illustrated from Documents and Original Drawings. By Herbert Langford Warren, A.M., late Fellow of the American Inst. of Architects, and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Harvard University. 32s. net. Sm. 4o. New York. 1919. [Macmillan & Co., St. Martin's Street, W.C.]

Town Planning: A Sketch in Outline. By John Sulman, F.R.I.B.A., President of the Town Planning Advisory Board to the Department of Local Government, and of the New South Wales Town Planning Association. Pamph. 8o. [Sydney, 1919.]

A Guide to the Identification of our more useful Timbers, being a Manual for the Use of Students of Forestry. By Herbert Stone, Lecturer in Forestry. 8o. 1920. 7s. 6d. net. [University Press, Cambridge.]

Description of the House and Museum on the North Side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, the Residence of Sir John Soane. By Arthur T. Bolton, F.S.A.

English Eighteenth Century Sculptures in Sir John Soane's Museum. By Arthur T. Bolton, F.S.A. With 21 illustrations. 2s. Sold only at the Museum.

The Tangled Skein: Art in England, 1800–1920. By Sir Reginald Blomfield, R.A., Litt.D. (Fifth Annual Lecture on Aspects of Art delivered before the British Academy. Reprinted from the Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. IX.) 1s. 6d. net. [Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, Amen Corner, E.C.]

Oxford, from Pictures by L. Russell Conway. Portfolio of Plates. 21s. net. [Wells Gardner, Darton & Co., Ltd.]

Man and his Buildings. By T. S. Attlee, M.A., A.R.I.B.A. [The Christian Revolution Series, Vol. X.]. 8o. Lond. 1920. 6s. net. [Swarthmore Press, Ltd., 72 Oxford Street, W.1.]

Notes on Property Law and Investment. By S. Ford, Barrister-at-Law, formerly F.S.I., A.R.I.B.A. 7th edition. 8o. Lond. 1920. 2s. 6d. [Eveleigh Nash Co., Ltd.]

Architecture and Sculpture in Mysore. No. III. (Mysore Archæological Series). The Lakshmidevi Temple at Dodda Gaddavalli. By R. Narasimhachar, M.A., M.R.A.S., Director of Archæological Researches in Mysore. La. 4o. Bangalore. 1919. 2s. net. [Government Book Depôt, Bangalore.]

Standard Method of Measurement for Reinforced Concrete in Building Construction: Report of the Joint Committee of Representatives of the Quantity Surveyors' Association, the Quantity Surveyor Members of the Concrete Institute and the Reinforced Concrete Practice Standing Committee of the Concrete Institute. (Adopted by bodies represented.) Pamph. 1s. 1d. post free. [The Concrete Institute.]

The Ventilation of Concrete Buildings. By Edward L. Joseph, M.I.E.E., F.C.S. Pamph. [The Concrete Institute.]

Commission of Conservation, Canada. Report of Tenth Annual Meeting held at Ottawa, Feb., 1919. La. 8o. 276 pp. illustrated.

Welsh Housing and Development Year Book, 1920. Edited by J. A. Lovat Fraser, M.A., Chairman of Council of Welsh Housing and Development Association, and P. J. Evans, Secretary. 4o. 1s. 6d. net. [38, Charles Street, Cardiff.]

Housing—Schemes submitted to the Ministry of Health by Local Authorities and Public Utility Societies up to 28th February 1920. 1s. net. [H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway.]

ALLIED SOCIETIES.

The Institute of Scottish Architects.

The Fourth Annual Convention of the Institute of Scottish Architects was held in Edinburgh on the 16th June, the function consisting of (1) the Annual General Meeting in the Hall of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts; (2) Lunch at Ferguson and Forrester's Restaurant, and (3) Visit to Holyrood Palace and Chapel Royal, the Royal permission having been granted to members and their friends to visit the State Apartments and see everything of interest within the Palace. At the annual meeting, after the transaction of the formal business, the following Address was delivered by the retiring President, Dr. William Kelly, A.R.S.A.:—

Two closely related problems, among many others that insistently call for solution, are occupying the thoughts of architects not only here in Scotland, but also in England and in America:—

(1) How can we explain to the public what is the true function of the architect; and (2) how is the professional education of architects to be improved.

THE FUNCTION OF THE ARCHITECT.

Concerning the function of the architect: By many people modern architecture is regarded as but the decorative dress of buildings; as nothing more serious than a mantle of forms and ornaments, borrowed from bygone styles, thrown over the naked elements that constitute building. The modern architect is thought to profess the art of applying to some kinds of buildings a highly conventional mask composed of such things as columns and cornices, very costly, and to tell the truth, rather dull and uninteresting, even to cultivated people. If all wealthy folk had some understanding of what architecture is, even fashion could not lure them to spending money on "faithful reproductions of period styles"; nor would any purchaser be found for "An Elizabethan Manor House," so called and advertised as having been designed and executed by an existing firm of providers.

In one sense, architects are not responsible for these aberrations; in another, I feel that the long-continued emphasis laid by architects on the correct use of historic styles has been a contributory cause. In this region, light and air are wanted, that gross misconceptions of the art of architecture may be cleared away. Leaving certain kinds of monument out of account, architecture has always been the art of constructing materials to provide rooms, or related and connected groups of rooms, to suit exactly some definite purposes of use. Each single work must needs be so strongly, simply, fitly, and economically framed together and finished, that it becomes a perfect thing, like a natural living body. In remarking on the beauty of all fully formed wild animals living an independent life, Professor J. Arthur Thomson has said that Beauty is Nature's stamp of approval on unified harmonious living. In like manner, beauty comes as a gift upon all unified harmonious structure for use: it comes upon simple, thoughtful, cared-for work; may come even upon barns and storehouses, workshops and factories, for these in their degree may belong to the kingdom of architecture as truly as a church or a town hall. Thus, because architecture is really organic building, the architect is, first and foremost, a deviser of things that are constructed and organised to the point of having become complete and well-finished bodies.

How is this view of architecture and of the function of architects to be published and recommended for general acceptance? I answer, by demonstration and by teaching. It is the young who are teachable. In this connection, the Regional Survey Associations may exercise much influence by teaching the living relationship between Place, Work, and Folk. Love of our own corner of the earth, of all that

comes from it and grows out of it, and of our kindred who have worthily lived and live there, is at the root of a real understanding and love of the crafts and of the architecture of that district; and, beginning at home, we may extend our "Region" as far as capacity and opportunity permit. We plead for reality as against masquerade and make-believe; for spontaneous natural expression as against imitation and pedantry. Show the teachers of the young that real architecture is full of interest, touching life at all points, and by-and-by, through our elementary and secondary schools and our Universities, the men and women of the future will understand and appreciate architecture more than their forebears of the last century or two have done.

Professional Education.

Questions concerning the professional education of architects may introduce more debatable matter. All are agreed that the sound foundation of a liberal education and broad general culture is more than ever necessary. Beyond that stage, opinions may differ; but let me ask you to consider these propositions:

1. That an extended course of drawing should first be taken by every student intending to follow architecture. The basis of the visual arts is drawing; that is, the accurate and sympathetic perception and delineation of form. Painting and sculpture, as well as architecture, are grounded upon knowledge of form. The architect, however, has no need to pursue pictorial drawing to any great length; what rather he should strive to attain is mastery of form, the power of shaping things expressively. But to that end the practice and discipline of drawing, including drawing from the life, should be greatly extended. The student of architecture as a rule spends too little time in learning to draw; and he applies himself too soon and too exclusively to geometrical architectural drawing, which is quite another thing. Drawing is in these days learned mainly in the School of Art; and afterwards in drawing outside, from Nature and buildings.

2. That having acquired some real power of drawing, the architectural student should become thoroughly acquainted with the properties and the strength of materials. He must study physics and its application to built structures, both theoretically and practically; and become familiar with standard practice in masonry, carpentry, and the other building crafts. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this part of his training, which should be obtained partly in the schools, partly in an architect's office, and in contact with actual works. The vital connection of the teaching of construction with the School of Architecture, so necessary to the life of the school, can in my opinion be secured only when the head is an architect who can and does control the teaching of practical construction. For a work of architecture, being construction with expression, cannot come about unless its maker is master of both material and form.

3. That the student, having some understanding of form and construction, is now fitted to proceed to the study of the historical development of architecture. But it is to be understood that this study should be carried on in the spirit in which University students read and learn to appreciate English literature, not for the purpose of themselves writing in the manner of any particular maker of poetry or of prose, but that they may become, if possible, masters of English.

4. That concurrently, some characteristic examples of architecture attractive to the student should be noted and actually measured in detail, and represented with scrupulous regard for truth in complete workmanlike plans, sections, and elevations. Conscientious and thoughtful work of this nature is of immense benefit to the student.

5. That thus so far equipped, the student can with advantage to himself and his principal be employed in regular office-work. His contact with reality in an office where architecture is in the process of making, and where he may daily gain insight into the practical working out of schemes, will enable him to make real attempts of his own in devising simple architectural structures for actual or possible conditions, instead of merely doing dry exercises in the combination of classic and academic forms.

6. That in setting forth his designs the use of a simple clear line is to be preferred, as much less liable to mislead the student himself, rather than the practice of elaborate shading, representing cast shadows, and treating plans, sections and elevations semi-pictorially. The habit of drawing hand-sketches in perspective, such as those illuminating little studies by Bramante and Peruzzi, is infinitely more useful in aiding one to realise the effect of structural composition.

7. That apprenticeship to an architect, in conjunction with sufficient periods of school work, is more likely to provide a sound early training for architects generally than school work alone, or school work plus limited attendance in an office; because while in an art school pictures may be produced, and also sculpture—at least to the extent of modelling—architecture itself cannot be done. Only in an architect's office can one take part in doing the real actual thing. There, and there only, the student may see how requirements are met and how the business of building organic structures, devised and supervised by the architect, is carried out to completion.

But it is most important that after the termination of their apprenticeship the more able students should be encouraged and enabled to pursue advanced studies in a School of Architecture and as travelling students.

8. That the formal instruction of students in building law and professional conduct is necessary. The architect's duties and responsibilities to the public, to his client, to contractors and craftsmen, and to his professional brethren are surely matters of the highest moment; for upon the full recognition and fulfilment of these duties and responsibilities depends the wellbeing of architecture.

At the same meeting Mr. Alexander N. Paterson, M.A., A.R.S.A. [*F.*], was unanimously elected and installed as President for the ensuing year.

At the luncheon afterwards, presided over by Mr. Paterson, Sir George McCrae, in submitting the toast of "the Institute of Scottish Architects," referred to the great assistance architects had rendered to the Board of Health in connection with the housing schemes. He thought they had been able to produce something that would be to the credit of Scotland in having housing schemes which had been framed and carried out with a due regard to beauty and stability. In matters of design they had endeavoured to have as many experiments as possible with regard to different forms of construction, and in this respect Glasgow had been very much to the forefront with five experimental houses, which had been practically finished. Here they had a comparison of the different forms of construction and cost, and they were able to judge whether the difference in cost was justified by the extra stability of the structure in one case and the other. In Scotland the Board of Health had been urging on Local Authorities to try new methods of construction, and in Edinburgh an experimental building was to be erected according to the Dorman Long design. They had as far as possible in Scotland encouraged the use of stone, and there were schemes for stone buildings going on in Elgin, Dumfries, Glasgow, and Edinburgh; in one case the extra cost for a stone dwelling as compared with another constructed of brick was £117. Having different forms of construction had also the further advantage of utilising all the possible labour.

The President, in reply, said that the Institute had found in the Scottish Board of Health a warm friend and collaborator in recent years.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

THE R.I.B.A. FINAL EXAMINATION AND THE RECOGNISED SCHOOLS.—The Council have passed the following resolution with regard to exemption from the R.I.B.A. Final Examination: "The Council of the Royal Institute will, subject to proper safeguards, recognise for exemption from its Final Examination (with the exception of that portion of the Examination which deals with Professional Practice) such schools as have set up a five years' Diploma or Degree course which the Council can approve, provided that, in judging all designs submitted for the Diploma or Degree, there be two External Examiners, approved by the Council, with power of veto."

THE CITY CHURCHES.—The Council have appointed two members—the President and Mr. George Hubbard—to represent the R.I.B.A. on the Joint Committee which has been set up to consider the question of the threatened City Churches.

COMPETITIONS.—The Council have taken action in the case of several members who have sent in designs for competitions which have been vetoed on the recommendation of the Competitions Committee.

"LUXURY" BUILDING.—An enquiry into the actual working of the restriction of building by the local authorities has been initiated, and the Building Industries Consultative Board has approached the London County Council on this matter.

THE IMPERIAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE.—The Council have appointed the following members to represent the R.I.B.A. at the Imperial Forestry Conference: Messrs. H. D. Searles-Wood, Alan E. Munby, W. Henry White, Digby L. Solomon, and J. Ernest Franck.

ULSTER SOCIETY.—A resolution has been received from the Ulster Society of Architects warmly supporting the Council's policy of unification and registration.

MR. THOMAS E. COLLCUTT.—In passing a resolution for the transfer of Mr. Thomas E. Collcutt, Past President, to the class of Retired Fellows, the Council have taken the opportunity of expressing to him their grateful appreciation of his many services to the Royal Institute, and to the art of architecture.

THE FORM OF CONTRACT AND THE "NATIONAL BUILDING CODE."—The revised Form of Contract has now been completed. A Conference is to be held with the representatives of the Surveyors' Institution and the National Federation of Building Trades' Employers to discuss the new Form and the "National Building Code."

THE INCREASE OF RENT BILL.—The Council have approached the Surveyors' Institution with the object of taking joint action to obtain an amendment in the Increase of Rent Bill in the interests of architects and surveyors.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER BOARD REGULATIONS.—Mr. H. Austen Hall has been appointed, in place of Mr. Alan E. Munby, resigned, to represent the R.I.B.A. on the Standing Committee on Water Board Regulations.

REINSTATEMENTS.—The following members have been reinstated by the Council: R. A. H. Phipps [*Associate*], C. T. Adshead [*Associate*], and J. A. Black [*Licentiate*].

THE SCALE OF FEES FOR HOUSING SCHEMES.—The negotiations with the Ministry of Health on the revision of the agreed Scale of Fees for Housing Schemes are nearly completed, and it is hoped that an amended scale will be published at an early date.

DURATION OF THE SESSION.—Under By-law 57 the duration of the current session has been extended until 1st November, 1920.

COMPETITIONS.

Gloucester War Memorial Competition.

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of Members and Licentiates to the fact that the conditions of the above Competition are unsatisfactory. The Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime Members and Licentiates are advised to take no part in the Competition.

Professional Announcements.

Mr. Cecil Masey [*Lic.*] has changed his office address to Grecian Chambers, Devereux Court, Strand, W.C.2.

Messrs. Lanchester, Rickards & Lucas have removed their office from No. 47 to No. 19 Bedford Square, W.C.1.

Mr. H. V. Lanchester [*F.*] and Mr. Pieter Rodeck have the pleasure to announce that, having entered into a partnership for Northern India, they have established an office at Lucknow, N.P.

NOTICE TO LICENTIATES.

The Licentiates have formed a General Committee for the purpose of organisation, and it is announced that a General Meeting for all Licentiates will be held in September. Further particulars will be given in a later issue of the JOURNAL.

HONG KONG.—Architectural Assistant required for service as an Assistant Engineer, Grade II., in the Public Works Department of Hong Kong. Applicants, who must be unmarried and between the ages of 24 and 30, should be fully qualified architects' assistants, well up in building construction and drainage works, able to make surveys and take levels. One who has a knowledge of the law relating to buildings, public health, and easements, and who has had experience in the administration of Building and Public Health By-laws, preferred. The person appointed will be required to scrutinise plans submitted under the local ordinance, to carry out the inspection of dangerous buildings, searching of old records in relation to land, etc., and general office routine. Duration of engagement 3 years, with prospect of permanency. Salary £400 p.a., rising to £440; if appointment made permanent, rising by annual increments of £20 to £600. Free passage out and home.—Address, in the first place, The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.